

PATENT
Application # PCT/US2003/036680
Attorney Docket # 1017-008

Claims 19-22, 31-34, 56, 57, and 73

In the Written Opinion, claims 19-22, 31-34, 56, 57, and 73 were cited as failing to meet the criteria under PCT Article 33(3) due to alleged obviousness over U.S. Patent 5,436,444 (Rawson). This contention is respectfully traversed for the reasons described above with respect to independent claims 1, 58, 59, and 80, and their dependents.

CONCLUSION

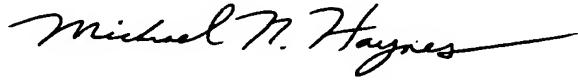
It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing remarks, the application is in clear condition for a favorable International Preliminary Examination Report.

Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of contention, and issuance of a favorable International Preliminary Examination Report are earnestly solicited.

Any fees related to this submission should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2504.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 434-972-9988 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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